

Enclosed
for Dr Somersdikes
reading and
understanding of Kake
field.
W. F. P.

Kake, Alaska
Oct. 18, 1935

Rev. Russel F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Pederson:

We arrived here just a week ago yesterday, we had a good trip coming down. Most of the men are out on the trolling grounds yet, but they will be coming in the week ends. The mance is pretty well run down it hasn't been kept up. 15 lights are broken in the windows so you see the wind goes right through the building. The walls and floor needs painting and the heater is very well gone. Swanso was here and said that he will bring glass, paint and kalsomine. If he does we will get the place fixed up.

The people are so nice to us so far. We had a good meeting last Sunday. I do hope that it will keep up right along, it takes a long time to get things started.

We had a poor summer, I did not make hardly anything fishing and my wife made less working in the cannery, however we will get along.

We had a meeting every Sunday at the cannery we were working at, if I was not able to be back for Sunday Mrs. Betts and our daughter Fannie held the meeting just the same as if I was there, we had an average attendance of 70 through the summer.

I think that Mr. and Mrs. Willard are doing great work among our people. I met them at Excursion Inlet, they were holding meetings right along also. I also met Mr. and Mrs. Bromley there, they also are doing a lot during the summer months.

You said in your letter that you would allow us gas money. The trip cost me \$5 for gas. althou it costed me about \$70 for anchors and ropes for the boat, you see that there is no harbor here and one needs extra anchors and ropes, that was one reason why I hated to come. \$70 could buy my wife and I a lot of good things, however we are glad we answered the call even if it did cost us just about all we had.

Just as soon as I get wood and our place fixed up I will be starting the week day Bible school. It seems nice to get back on the field again.

I do hope that the Wanamakers will find the house in good condition. We left a good coal oil range there for them besides the stoves.

Brother Gibson Young mail me the \$20 which came in very handy. (Part for part of winter last year)

How is Mrs. Pederson and the children, We do hope that they are all well. Mrs. Betts and I always remember you both in our prayers.

Your Brother in His name,

George R. Betts

Kake, Alaska
Jan. 6, 1936

Dr. J. M. Somerndike
Board of National Mission
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Somerndike :

I want to thank you for your nice letter of Nov. 30th, also the nice Christmas card and message.

Yes, the \$5 increase that the Board of National Missions has allowed me will come in handy. I do think that it was so kind of you to remember me in doing so, however we are getting along just fine, you see since the Board ran short and it couldn't afford to give us more, I just had to get along with out papers I use to subscribe for such as "The Presbyterian Banner" and others, so now I will have get some reading matter.

We like it here well, the people here are so nice to us, and er are getti along so fine with the people.

We have started a real Christian Endeavour Society here. There has always one here, but they were run altogamher different from the way it is run in the States. The older people toke all the part, at the meetings leaving the young people out, but we have started with our young people. I know that it will be a success for the young people are taking a big intrest in the work now.

I wonder if you will be able to send us some Young people's Topics I will certainly appreciate same.

I have started a Week Day Bible class here also, which I suppose you have already noticed in my monthly reports. I will have to have two classes one for the lower grades. I have the studies for the lower grades, but I would like to get your advice as to what study to take up with 7th and 8th grades. I think if I get the material for the upper grades I can do better. I am using the same material for both at present.

I often think of the meeting we had at Cleveland. I am so very glad to have met you.

I sure enjoyed my stay at Sitks last year, I enjoyed the study I take under the Rev. Jackson L. Webster. He is a fine man and is doing good work there.

The Salvation Army is working this field also. Captain Newton is in charge, he is a native also. We are working to gather, you see we have two united meetings every Sunday. We unite with them in the afternoon and they unite with us in the evening, of course our evening meetings are under the leadership of our young people.

May the Lord's rich blessing be yours in your great work for Him is our prayer

Sincerely your brother in His Name,

George R. Betts.

Jan.
22nd
1936

Mr. George Betts,
Kake, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

1/27/36

Replying to your letter of January 6th,
I am sending you a dozen copies of Young People's Topics
for the quarter beginning January 1st. I am also send-
ing under separate cover my Manual of Week Day Bible
Lessons, in which you will find plenty of material which
you can adapt to the needs of the children and young
people whom you are teaching in your week day Bible classes.

*Send each
1 each copy
for manual*

I am glad to note the spirit of optimism in
which you are carrying on your work, and I pray that during
this new year 1936 you may experience rich blessings in all
your service.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

Dr. Somerndike,
Good material in Laymon's words of fruit of
the Indians Evangelistic visit.
R.F.P.

Kake Alaska
Feb. 15 - 1936

Rev. R. F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

On my return from the Angoon trip. I got your fine letter. I didn't like the idea of going to Angoon. However I went a long. I know that the Lord has blessed us all by going. Twenty-six of us from this Church, and nineteen from the Salvation Army. We came back but the Army are visiting other towns. We had some wonderful meetings. One thing that we did is, getting some of the old elders to attend Church. Elder George Klushkoon quit going to Church after loosing his cousin (Shortie Johnson) he didn't feel like going to Church. he wasn't a backslider, he just couldn't stand missing his friends so he just simple wasn't going. but thank God, that he changed his mind. A lot of others that were loosing interest in the Church, took a new stand. No doubt brother Wanamaker will tell you all about it.

I think that I got to impatient with our workers here. I know that it takes time to change things. I can see a great change in

now. The old people were running the C. E. now
its mostly young people. A lot of the older
people still thinks that the C. E. is for the
older people but, things are improving right
along.

No I haven't gotten anything from the Church
yet. I know that money was raised but I do
not know what was done. I heard that it
was going to be send out. I thought it was
mailed to you already.

I didn't keep track of the rent money. I think
I haven't gotten rent for January yet. However I
got at the rate of \$40 a month right from the
start. I mean it was made up later for which I
thank you and Mr. Somerville. You see I can
nearly get along with that a month. so I
think it would be better to let it go at
that. I hate to ask the people for money al-
tho I need more then I am getting. to get along
with. Yes Mrs. Johnson is still here at the
Manse.

Sincerely yours

G. R. Betts.

Kake, Alaska
May, 22, 1936

Rev. John A. Glaspe
Juneau, Alaska.

Dear Mr. Glaspe:

I am sorry, that my report for this month is late. I intended to mail it in on the last boat, but I had to take a sick woman into Petersburg last Sunday afternoon, and didn't get back in time to mail the report.

Most of the people are still here, I think, that, they will all be here up to the first of the month.

I will try and hold Vacation Bible School next week. I don't know just how it will turn out. I had a talk with Capt. Newton, of the Salvation Army about working together in trying to start the School, as there are a lot of their children. If things turn out as I expect I will try and have Children's Day the last of this month. I think that most of our people will be in.

You will notice, that I missed two Sundays with in which there was no Sunday School. Well, I was called on to take trips right after the morning worship. You saw me there on one of the trips. The other I took last Sunday right after the morning worship again. I had to go in with a sick woman. I was asked to go into Petersburg again last night, but I didn't go for the trip wasn't so important.

May God bless you and your family,

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

Betts accounted for
8 mos. Dec. 10/15/35

*narrative accompanying
statistical report
for Mrs. Betts*

Kake, Alaska
Oct. 21, 1938

Rev. R. F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Inclosed is the report for the frist half of Oct. I am sorry to say that it is always so slow to get organized, after coming in, in the fall, as all our helpers are usually are out putting up their winters supply. Most of the people are still out some drying fish, others trolling.

I had to take a trip to Sitka. I got a wire from our girl asking our permission to leave school and go to Juneau, I did not know just what was up, so I just jumped on the boat and went to Sitka, I left here Wednesday, Oct. 5, I figured I could get back for Sunday, but, I ran into a storm on my way back. I just couldn't make it. I had to wait untill Monday, Oct. 10th. I got home the night of the tenth. However I got Fannie to stay.

I just got the Sundayschool started last Sunday, all the teachers are still out, but I think we will get everything a going by the frist of November. I have been out getting some wood, I will start sawing tomorrow. It sure takes a lot of time to saw up wood.

The CCC men are going to build a gravel road back of the town, as the old board walk is just about gone. The road that was build in front of the town is also a gravel road. The gravel was taken from the beach in front of the mance. It felt a big hole in the beach and that made the tide to wash back about ten feet of our land. They could not very well take ant more gravel from our beach, for if they do the tide may wash away the mance and Church. We are plan to put a baseement in our church. The big job will be to dig out a place for the basement. It is all good gravel under the Church. I think if we will let the CCC men take and dig out the gravel for the road will gain a lot by letting them do so, as it is so handy for them. They can also have the gravel under the mance, by letting them do this we can get a lot of work done for nothing. It toke me a long time to dig out a small place for the light plant. I asked the foreman about it. He told me after looking at the gravel that they can take the gravel if we will let them. Let me hear what you think of it.

I wrote Mrs. Betts to have the Kake Session work out the plans for excavation with expectation of preparing for their church basement, and at same time require our foundation supports where made necessary. R.F.H.

I got the two books that you mailed me. I looked them over I think I will use them this winter. I got some books from Rev Webster while over at Sitke They are nearly the same as the ones you mailed only the are about two years old but, of course that does not make any difference. I will try and start the week day Bible school the first of Dec.

We pray that God will bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

Kake, Alaska
Dec. 2, 1938

Rev. Russell F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

\$10.00 credited to current work 12/15/38
I got your letter of the 23rd of November. I am inclosing a money order for the Board. The offering was given at the last Communion service, but our Church treasurer happened to be out so I did not get to send it with my report.

I haven't received anything from the Church yet, but I am sure they will give me what they promised, it is best not to ask for same as I know how we natives feel about being asked for such, when I owe money to anyone I like to pay the party just as soon as I get enough, but if the party gets after me I just don't feel like trying to pay, and I have owed a lot, I have owed as much as \$2000.00. I am out of debt for the first time I think in about twenty years. Anyhow Kake has been so good in paying their worker, they usually pay me after Christmas, they use to give me the whole thing in one lump.

The CCC has started to dig and take away the gravel from under the Church, so you can be sure that, we are busy as I am there to see that our Church does not fall over. Monday Charlie S. Johnson and seven members of our Church and myself went out for cedar logs to be used for piling. We were out two days and got about forty piles. The boys are digging about eight feet deep, they will take about three hundred cubic yards of gravel from the place. Five hundred cubic yards will be needed for the street so you see there will be enough gravel to cover three fifth of the road. We are so happy over the work. I know we could never have done the job for I see now that it is a much bigger job then we expected.

I will get at the floor just as soon as I get through with the Church. I will get the flooring from Mr. Kirberger. The flooring has been laying out side so you see I will have to bring the flooring inside so I can have it dried out.

I want to thank you for the copies of quistions that you send me. I have now thrity boys and girls in my Week Day Bible class. I sure need material for the work. And I sure appreciate the help I get from you. The children are enjoying the study. I will be glad when the Church gets the money for the basement. We can do a lot of more work.

John Bean, who is in charge of our young people's work had a young people's meeting after prayer meeting, Wednesday, we had a good turn out we had thrity-five young people that attended.

The work here is now well started, the Women's Missionary Society is meeting every Thursday, and is sure a great help to our Church. One of our big Church windows was blown in during a storm. And our sisters bought a new window to put in, in place of the broken one.

I got the stove but, I am not using it right now two of my cousins came and cut about five cords of wood for me so I will have to burn up all my wood before I start in burning oil. I am sending the bill for the stove.

I am so sorry to hear about Scotty Martin. We were reared together, Scotty is a little older than I and he used to take care of me when we were small. I do not know just what I could do to help him out with, if he was here I could do what I could for him. Yet it brings me great joy to know that he gave himself to the Lord. I tried and tried to get him to accept His Lord, but he just couldn't stand. But, if he is called home I know that, I shall see him. It is so wonderful to know that there is a place where we will see our loved ones, if we do His will. Tell my brother that I will miss him but that I will be looking for him in the Home that our Saviour has prepared for us.

Mr. Pederson I want to thank you for showing our Saviour to my brother. I pray that God will richly bless you.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

Dec.
5th
1938

Mr. George Betts,
Kake, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

Through an error in our Treasurer's Office you received in salary for the months of October and November two checas amounting to a total of \$150. You should have been paid at the rate of \$50 a month for these two months, or a total of \$100. In other words, for these two months you have been overpaid in the sum of \$50. Beginning December 1st your salary is increased to \$62.50 per month. However, since you were overpaid in the amount of \$50 for the months of October and November, we will be obliged to deduct this overpayment from your December check and will send you a check for \$12.50 representing the difference between your December salary and the amount you have been overpaid.

You voucher for each month in the future should call for the sum of \$62.50 and checks will be mailed to you on that basis.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BN

cc to Rev. R. F. Pederson

Kenai, Alaska
Dec. 15th, 1938

Rev. R. F. Pederson
Kenai, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Inclosed is the report for the month. I tried my best to fill it out as it should be filled. I think we have a good form for one just sees what should be done, so one just got to get down to work. You will notice that we have started a young people's meeting. We have the meeting right after the Wednesday's prayer meeting, so far it has worked out fine.

I am glad to tell you, that our young men has started an athletic club, the boys under the direction of Aubree Shugart are doing well, the boys are going to try and keep from drinking any strong drink. They have done well so far and I think they mean business. However, we will do all we can to help them. I will sure be glad when we get a basement under our church, for we can do a lot of work with our young people. We are using the manse at this time, but it is rather small. We had a young peoples party last night, we had about seventy that came. I see now that we just got to wake up and get our young people interested. I know you will pray for our young people.

I have the new floor all laid, I also have the porches fixed up, I put in a new porch at the back. I also braced up the front porch. I patched up the walls in the dining room and bath room. I also painted up the floors, so the manse is pretty well fixed up. The timber under the manse is pretty rotten if we can get some six by six by six feet long I can jack up the building and set them under, of course we can do that next year.

We can have the water piped in now, the town is charging ten dollars to tap the main pipe. Last year the town bought new water pipe. They asked the people of the town to put up all they could afford. The money put up for the pipe will go on as the payment of tapping the pipe. I wrote in to Mr. Glasse and told him about it. I thought the Board could put up some money, and later go have the money turned in on the tapping charges. Mr. Glasse did not answer my letter, so cousin Pete and I put up five dollars apiece, later I paid Pete his five dollars, so you see I have already paid for the tapping of the water pipe, infact I have already tapped the pipe. Rev. Hanson told me that he will bring me some pipe, but I would like to ask you at this time, if you want right water to be piped into the manse, Mr. Hanson also told me that if I get the receipt for the ten dollars he will pay me for same. I have the receipt now.

I got a letter from Dr. Boardman telling me about the error in the check. I think you got a copy of the letter.

Our people here at Kake, did not do well fishing at all. More than half of the men went in what we call "in the hole" they did not get a cent. And there is no work to be gotten here. I know that the Church here promised five dollars a month towards my salary. I am just putting myself in their place now. What can I do if I only got twenty-five dollars for my summer's work. Will I be able to give say, five dollars towards some work, I suppose I would do it, maybe not. Now please bear in mind, that, it is exactly the way our native people stand. Some of our people here went seven hundred dollars in the hole. I have said before that, this is the first time in twenty years I cleared myself with a Cannery, so I know how it is. I think the natives do well, when we consider what little money they make.

Inclosed is the rest of the bills for paint, paint brushes etc.

I know that, you are busy getting your presents ready for Christmas. I know I am. I hope and pray that, the Lord will bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

George R. Beth

Kake, Alaska
Jan. 19, 1939

Rev. Russel F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska.,

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Inclosed is the report of the work here, also money order for the sum of seven dollars. Five dollars will go towards our National Missions quota and two dollars towards the moving picture, that, Rev. Swanson showed.

The Princeton was in port the last of last week and spend the week end with us. We had Communion last Sunday, three new members also joined our Church.

Do you know Mr. Pederson it is always nice to see the Princeton and the Rev. and Mrs. Swanson calling into one of our out of the way ports. The old ship is sure "A Good Samaritan". One has just got to be out in a place like Wrangell or Kake to find out just what the Princeton means to us, with such a good hearted Christian like Rev. Swanson as Skipper. I think every Native in Alaska appreciates the service that the Princeton and Rev. Swanson has so far given. The A. Salvation Army member asked another of its members the question: "Why are a lot of our natives leaving our organization?" "I'll tell you," says he, "they have better things and such a nice boat and a captain, that helps every one that asks help." and if we don't get a boat and do as they do we might as well pack up and leave Alaska. Capt. Williams then said just as sure as the sun comes up I will work and see that we get a boat. And they are now getting one. I for one want to thank the Board for giving us such good service. We in Alaska live so close to each other, I mean the towns are so close, yet so far.

Mr. Swanson also showed us some pictures, they were sure good. The people here sure appreciated them, we did over two hundred turn out to see the pictures. It is sure good to show pictures of the work of our Church and to see what great work our Church is doing.

I got my first copy of "To Day" I want to thank you for the good gift, for we sure will make use of it.

I have to water piped into the dance now, it is sure handy to have running water into the house. By the way Rev. Swanson gave me the ten dollars, replacing the ten we paid to tap the pipe, he also brought the water pipe, we sure have done a lot of improvement to the dance this year.

The stove was working very good but, I had to take it out for I ran out of oil, and I just couldn't afford getting oil at this time, but I will make use of it just as soon as I burn all of my wood.

We are praying that God will bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

*Mr. Swanson
turned that
bill for \$10.00
against Kake
Mance in
his last
months account to
National Missions.*

Kake, Alaska
Feb. 16, 1939

Rev. Russel F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Inclosed is the report blank for the past month. You will notice that, I reported the money that I mailed you last month, The Kake Church for the first time filled its quota.

The Lord has been bless the work here this winter. Times are rather hard owing to a poor fishing season, but the members of our Church are doing all they can to help carry on the work. I think that, this winter has been the hardest winter for our people here, if it wasn't for the stores that are giving credit, I don't know just what some of our people would have done.

However, we are doing what we can. We just had a shipment of fir lumber shipped up to-day. Yes, we ordered 1,350 ft. of two by twelve so we can start on the basement of our Church. I took the Old, Fausness up to the cannery dock and loaded the lumber, we will be unloading it tomorrow and will start boarding up the basement, maybe Monday. I think the size of the basement will be about thirty by thirty. You see they are putting in a street in front of the Church and a street in the back of the Church, so we will be leaving about ten feet of gravel on each end. The CCC tried to get some gravel from in front of our place, (on the beach) but if they take anymore it will wash a lot of our ground. Mr. Anderson, the foreman was over to see me. I told Mr. Anderson we do not wish to have anymore gravel taken from our beach, but he said that, the beach was the only place where they could get gravel, and if they could not get it there the town will have to get along with out a street. The gravel from under our Church was enough for the back street. The back street is now finished.

You will notice in the report blank, under the Young People's Society. Yes, we have started a children's C.E. We have 15 members, but I think we will have about forty members before long. You see our friends the Sal. Army have been working with our children, but I see now that they are asking all our children to join them, so if they are going to try doing so, we must look after our own children. I have a lot of their children in our Week Day Bible Class but I never asked them to join.

Our older people takes more intrest in the C.E. than they do of the Church. I do not know why. It is true of our Elders and Deacons also. The C.E. is alright but I think we should get our Church first. I tried to show them what the C.E. is yet they take more intrest in the C.E. They raised money for the Church last month, the money that, was raised they turned over to the C.E. treasurer. But we have to train our church children different. Can you give me some advice as to how to approach the older people about the matter?

Mar.
13th
1939

Mr. George Betts,
Kake, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

Replying to your letter, I wish to say that I am writing to Mr. Pederson advising him to get in touch with the government representatives, warning them against taking any more gravel from the mission property lest it weaken the foundations of the church. I hope you will make it clear to them that you have written the Board and that the Board will not approve of anything that will imperil the safety of our church property.

We have the money on hand for the new basement which you are putting into the church. The cost of this improvement must not exceed \$400. I hope that you will keep this in mind so that the expense will not exceed this amount.

You should inform your church session that under our Presbyterian constitution they have the control over the disposal of all money raised by the church. Of course it often happens that the church people want to help the young people's society, and it would be quite proper for them to raise some money through a special effort and give it to the treasurer of the young people's society, provided the young people's society intends to use the money for some worthy purpose; but this should all be approved by the session of the church. It is not right for the young people's society to hoard the money that is raised by the church and keep it in their own treasury when it is needed for the regular running expenses of the church. Of course you realize that this is a very delicate matter and that it must be handled in a discrete and careful way in order to avoid offending or discouraging the people from doing things that are good and helpful.

Faithfully yours,

JMS:BH

*Mr. King,
Sent along as
a translation
report from
Angoon*

Angoon, Alaska
Nov. 17, 1939

Rev. R. F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson: ,

I got your nice letter also the reports from the different fields for which I thank you.

I got back Monday afternoon from the A.N.B. Convention, Wanamaker, Johnson and myself were there, we had a fine convention.

A lot of our people from here were over at Sitka to attend the convention. Two boats went over. I suppose you heard by this time that the Convention started a fund for the Princeton. I think they got somewhere around \$2000. I will see what I can do here just as soon as we have things going.

*A. J. Gibson
Nov 18 1939*

The people of a village thinks that a worker in a Church should take interest and do a lot of work for a village, I think one should do a lot but, not all, it has been the practice here to get the worker here to do nearly everything for the town and the A.N.B. in so doing a worker does not get the time to do his own work I mean the Church work. I am starting my Week Day Bible School today, one just came in and told me that I am wanted at the town hall to attend a mass meeting to talk over the Wheeler-Howard Loan. So you see I will have to get my friends to understand that, I have very important program to carry out for our Church. I will do what I get time to do for our town and A.N.B. after working out our Church program.

There are a lot of young people here and I am looking forward to a lot of work with them, the young people seem to take great interest in the Church work.

I have a lot of work to do on our house also. Whenever I get time I do a little repairing on the house

Mrs. Betts and I wishes you and Mrs. Pederson and the children Happiness, we always remember you all in our prayers.

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

Oh yes, I saw Gibson, while at Sitka I am so happy he got the Wake Church, I know he will be liked

Angoon, Alaska
Dec. 8, 1939

Rev. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:

I am so sorry that I haven't written before now, however I am so glad that the Lord has choosen you for the great work among the Indian people. I am also glad that I will be working for the Master under your leadership for Him.

I want to thank you for your nice letter of Oct. 12 in which you told me that, you prayed for the work here and that you also prayed for me. Yes, indeed we need the prayers of God's children. I know that the Lord is answering the prayers of His children. I appreciate and thank you very much for your prayer. For we need the guiding hand of our Heavenly Father.

It takes a little time to get started on a new field. I am just about getting started. We now have our Week Day Bible School a going. I have 20 enrolled. We have our Sunday School agging pretty good now, but, we are short of Sunday School supplies, we have no up to date material at all, owing to financia conditions. When there is no fish in the summer there is no money. Last summer was a poor year no fish at all. I think if the Board helps us with half of the material we will be able to pay for the other half. I will see our Sunday School, Supt. We have an enrollment of 45 children in our School. We will appreciate ver much if the Board will help us out. About half are in our Primary class. We would like to get the International School lessons if we can.

We sure miss the Motor ship ~~Priston~~ on does not really know what a help that boat was. I do not see how we could get along without a boat. We live so close to one another yet so far. I have a small boat. the Salvation Army took my boat to Yak, now Yak is just about 50 miles from here yet if one wants to go to Yak on a sail boat one just have to travel about three hundred miles to get there. So you see the way things is up here. I hope and pray that the Lord will provide a way so that we can get another boat on the run. I think that the work of a Mission Boat will do lot more then ten Missions in Alaska. One just have to come to Alaska to see just how things are. Let us Pray that the Lord will open up awy for another boat.

May God bless you in this great work.

Sincerely Yours,

George R. Betts

Dec.
11th
1939

Mr. George R. Betts,
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

I have your letter of November 17th which was forwarded to me by Mr. Pederson. I would appreciate it immensely if you would take the time to write me a detailed story of your experiences there in Angoon. It will be helpful to me and it will create a fine spirit of understanding.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BN

Angoon, Alaska
Jan. 19, 1940

Rev. Russel F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

The past month was sure a busy month, Christmas, New Year and the visit of Rev. Webster and our friends that came along with him. We had good attendance during the past month. We did not have room for all Christmas evening. A lot more turned back because there was no room in our Church building. Same thing happened for the Watch Night service.

We were sure glad to have Rev. Webster here with us last week. I feel that God has blessed us all during his stay here with us. Eight took a new stand for the Master and five were taken into the Church on profession of faith.

We are sending in our small contributions towards a new boat, it is rather small but we will try and send a little more next time.

I wonder if you know what has been done about the Johnson's house that was planned upon to buy for a manse, also the adding on to our Church. We sure need a place here where we can entertain our young people. Rev. Webster thinks that we should have a larger building and basement in our Church. I think we could have done a lot of work if we just know what is what. I think I have asked before, but did not get an answer.

Everything is just about the same here. The men are returning from the trapping grounds. Fur is so low that even a good catch is not bring in a good price.

Trusting that the Lord is blessing you in your work for Him.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

copy of letter to Mr. R. F. Pederson

67.11.15
157

Angoon, Alaska
January 19, 1940

Rev. Everett B. King
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:

I have your letter of December 11th, asking a detailed story of my experiences ~~here~~ in Angoon.

I am sorry that it took me all this time to answer your letter. But it happened to be near Christmas and New Year the I hardly had time to do any writing.

Angoon is a Native Village (Alaska Indians) of which I am one. There are about 350 people here, natives and about twelve white people. We have here also three Churches, that is including the Salvation Army. We have here the Russian Greek Church. This Church is the oldest Church in Alaska. When the Russians first came in they also brought the Gospel along. About 200 belongs to the Russian Church, about 100 including children belong to our Church and the rest belongs to the Salvation Army. The three has Native leaders. We get along fine. Once in a great while we get into a fight about our members. But I think we all do that, after all it is not the Church we belong too that counts. It is the lives and the Lord we serve.

We have ~~the~~ services on Sundays, well, in fact we have three Morning Worship Sundays, Sunday school, in the afternoon and young people in the evening from 7 to 8 and then evening Worship from eight in the evening. Most of the time the Russian Church members unite with us in the evenings. The Salvation Army has Tuesdays and Fridays in which they hold their weekly meetings. We have Wednesdays for our prayer meetings and I conduct a Week Day Bible class Fridays.

I have a small home here, I have to conduct the Week Day Bible class in our house, it is rather small for the purpose, but it is the only place convenient at present. The Board was going to buy a place here for a manse. I wonder what has been done about the house. It is a big house and would sure be a great help to have a place like that, for our young men and women has got to be entertained, because there are many attractions and temptations that leads our young people astray and I think if we just could get a place where we can entertain our young people it will be a good thing. The Elders have been talking about enlarging our Church building and putting in a ~~havement~~. I think the Board has granted this Church a small sum of money towards same, I would appreciate it if you let me know just what is what on our Church plan.

I wrote some time about the need of meterial for oyr Sundayschool. I would like to get a large copy of the Apostle's Creed and ~~some~~ maps of the Bible lands also a large copy of the Lord's Prayer.

We are haveing such fine weather up here this winter,we have not had any snow to speak of,right now there is no snow on the ground and it is just about freezing.

We are looking forward to your visit.The late Dr.Somerndike has promised us a visit,but something always happened that he never got to visit our small villages.I hope that nothing will stop you from visiting our small villages,for you will surely understand coditions up here by visiting us.We will be looking for you.

My prayer is that the dear Lord will bless you in your great work for Him.

Sincerely yours.

George R. Betts

*Copy for
Dr. King*

Box 275
Wrangell
January 26, 1940

Mr. George R. Betts
Presbyterian Church
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Brother:

Thank you for your letter of the 19th. We are pleased with the reports which have resulted from the visit of Rev. Mr. Webster and his party to Angoon and Kake.

Will attempt to answer your two inquiries:
First: The sale and purchase of the Johnson house has been delayed through the U. S. Land Office procedure in dealing with Indian Lands. Has Mr. Johnson heard anything recently from the Land Office? The Board of National Missions made the purchase price available to Attorney Faulkner. We have heard nothing of the Deed.

Second: Dr. Everett B. King, Secretary for Alaska Missions of the Presbyterian Board of National Missions, will sail from Seattle one month from today. Dr. King is scheduled to visit Angoon, Wednesday March 6th. In other words a month after you receive this letter Dr. King will be along to Angoon.

His visit will be your opportunity to show the Board representative just what the Angoon Church needs, and the grant necessary.

Mr. Johnson wrote about adding an addition to one side and to the choir loft. Your letter seems to indicate that you are considering an addition and basement.

My suggestion is that you get the Ruling Elders together to plan out just what is needed. Put it on paper with the plans drawn out and the figures included as to what material will be necessary.

Dr. King will be in Angoon about a day. I think he will plan to arrive about 7 a.m. and leave late the night of the same day.

You should have two copies of the plans and the materials needed, one for Dr. King and the other for the National Missions Committee. If you can send me the N. M. Committee copy before the meeting of Presbytery, then it will be ready for talking over with the Committee and with Dr. King. It will be well for you to include an estimate of the costs of the materials.

Should the men of the church have time to spare and desire to make the excavation for the church basement, it should be practical to go ahead with that work. The piling for posts should be easy to get. Then when money is available, the finishing could be accomplished without delay. No financial promises can be made before Dr. King's visit.

Sincerely,

Russell

Feb.
8th
1940

Mr. George R. Betts,
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

I have your letter of January 19th
and want to thank you for the contribution of \$22.67
which has been credited to our Alaska Boat Fund.

I am hoping that I shall be able to
fit a visit to Angoon into my Alaska itinerary next
month. If it is at all possible, you may be sure
I shall look forward to seeing you.

Cordially yours,

EBK:BN

Angoon, Alaska
Feb. 9, 1940

Rev. R. F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

Inclosed is a money order for the Board of National Missions \$40 is towards a new boat and \$10 on our quota making a sum of \$50. We will try and send a little more. I am sending this so we can have all we can into the fund. The sooner we get the full amount in the quicker we will be able to get a boat.

Things are about the same here this year, but there has been no drinking whatsoever this year, and our young people have been taking a great interest in the work of the Church.

Some of our people are moving out for the rest of the winter. George James, one of our Elders, and his family moved to Sitka, they will be staying there for the rest of the winter.

Mr. Samuel Johnson is in now to stay. I think Mr. Pederson, that since it was Mr. Johnson ~~that~~ who is responsible for our Church here, we should have him serve this Church as pastor. If I knew that he did not want to leave Angoon, I never would have taken the Angoon Church, as we all like Sam. Sam wants to be in the field but the only Church I think he will serve is the Angoon Church. I know if he is offered this Church he will accept same, as it is near Presbtery, I am recommending Mr. Johnson for this Church. Will we have one of your ordained men here so we will be able to hold our Election of Church officers be for Presbtery? We would like to have same before the meeting of Presbtery.

We are planning a big meeting of ^{Church} town tonight, as we will be having our World's Day of Prayer. Mrs. Betts has been so busy this winter, she got a lot of women interested in the Missionary society this winter, the women of Angoon took the Church work lightly in the past, it grew in membership and also done a lot of work for the Church and the community this winter.

I hope we will be able to send more money towards our new boat by the next report. The Angoon Church Paid me in full this winter. I think the people here are taking great interest in the work of the Lord, every year. I know you will be glad to hear same.

May the Lord bless you and Mrs. Pederson. We are looking forward to the visiting of Dr. King.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

Dr King:

Angoon, Alaska

Feb. 15, 1940

Rev. Russel F. Pederson
Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson,

Inclosed is my report and two money orders amounting to seven dollars to go towards the Memorial fund of the Princeton. I want to send all the money we get towards the Memorial fund just as soon as I get the money the more we get it in the quicker we will have enough for a boat, it is not mush but it will all count up.

We had a good turn out for our World's Day of prayer, there were eighty seven at the prayer meeting that night. And we are sure that the Lord, blessed us all, for we had a fine prayer meeting.

Things are just about the same here, there are a lot of colds Mr. Sam Johnson and Mrs. Betts are laid up with colds, but hope that they will be up soon.

We will all soon meet again at Presbytery, if the Lord is willing. Hope we will all be able to attend.

God bless you and your family,

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts.

Feb.
29th
1940

Mr. George Betts,
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

Your letter of February 9th arrived after Dr. King had left the office for his Alaska trip, but I have forwarded it to him so that he might confer in person with you regarding it when he visits Angoon.

I have turned into the Treasury your money order for \$50.00, to be applied as follows:
\$40.00 - Alaska Boat Fund
10.00 - National Missions General Work

and you will find herewith the formal receipt.

With best wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

BH [Signature] UNIT OF ALASKA WORK.

March 18, 1940

Mr. George Betts
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

I find that our Treasurer's receipt for the contribution of seven dollars from the Angoon Church to be credited toward the Fund for the replacement of the "Princeton" was mailed to you directly by our Treasurer's office, but we wish to take this opportunity of expressing our thanks to you for this contribution.

We hope that you were able to attend Presbytery meeting and had the pleasure of meeting Dr. King at that time.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Dr. King

HEW:TTL

Financial Report

Contributions

(Benevolent offerings from organized churches applicable to benevolent quota.)

Presbyterian Church of Glasgow
(State whether Church or Sunday School)

(State whether Church or Sunday School)

my money order

5

Money order

2 -

Presbytery of Chaska

Total Contributions.....\$

If above space is not sufficient attach
itemized list.

70

Collected on Field

by Missionaries who receive entire salary from the Board.

Received from Churches, Mission Sunday Schools, other Services, Individuals, and all other offerings to be credited as "Field Receipts."

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Total.....\$

Total amount of remittance enclosed.....

7100

Signed Mrs E J H a m b e r g

Address

Church Treasurer
Angoon, Alaska

April 2, 1940

Mr. George Betts
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

On my return to the office I found your money order
for Fifty Dollars, which was to be applied as follows:

\$40.00 for the Alaskan boat fund
\$10.00 for National Missions general work.

You spoke to me about this check when I saw you in Sitka.
Let me again express to you my hearty appreciation for
this sacrificial offering.

It was a real privilege to meet you and your men in Alaska.
I feel now that I can write to you and in so doing have a
personal conference with you. My heart will be with you,
and my prayers shall follow you throughout your labors.

Cordially yours,

EBK:E

*Betts
Narrative*

Angoon, Alaska

May, 25, 1940

Rev. R. F. Pederson

Wrangell, Alaska

Dear Mr. Pederson:

I am so sorry that I did not get my report out before now, but I have been so busy, as I went to Sitka, to attend the Commencement Week Program, which I sure enjoyed, I took home some of the Angoon children.

We were indeed glad to have had with us Miss. McRuer, over the week end. Most of our people were out working on their gardens but, we managed to get most of them in to meet here. Sunday about 175 turned out to hear her. We also had Mr. Stwert and some students from the Sheldon Jackson School with us over the week end. The meeting last Sunday evening was under the leadership of the S.J.S. students. And you can be sure that we were proud of them.

Just about all the people will be going out to the canneries the first of the month. I am not sure as to the cannery I will be going. I will stay and hold meetings here as long as there are a few and I will be going to the cannery and keep up the work. I think we should all do what we can at the canneries.

I hope that you will have a good trip when you get to go out.

May God bless you and your family,

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

May 29, 1940

Mr. George Betts
Angoon, Alaska

Dear George:

I do not know whether or not we have made it clear to you about your work for the coming fall. This letter will make all of our plans clear.

We want you to serve your eight months as a native lay worker in Petersburg. We will guarantee the regular \$500 and it is hoped that the amount can be made \$800 for your eight months. Of course we will take care of your moving expenses from Angoon to Petersburg. Please let me know whether or not this is perfectly satisfactory with you.

You made a deep impression on my heart when I was in Alaska and I am grateful that we have you as one of our faithful and loyal workers that we can always depend upon.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

ALASKA

Angoon, Alaska
June, 10, 1940

Mr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Your letter

7/24/40 & 6/12/40 attached

Dear Mr. King:

I want to thank you for your nice letter of May 29th. in which I understand that you want me to serve the Petersburg field for eight months.

I feel that I do not have any choice as to the field I am to serve, as I feel that one should go to where ever the Lord sees best, so I will be leaving for Petersburg in the fall.

I have enjoyed the work here the past year. our house here needed repairs and I nearly finished it. I could not do very much and do my Church work at the same time. But I got a new foundation in and got most of the work done on the house. I started the house ten years ago, but while building the house I was asked to take the same field and I left before I finished the house.

I do not think there is a chance at Petersburg. When we served there the last time we stayed over the Church and it was so inconvenient for a lot of things. Whenever we scrubbed the floor the ceiling leaked. When we arrived at Petersburg, there was no stove there so I had to buy a stove which I paid out of my own pocket, there was no furniture there so I also bought a bedstead and some chairs. Rev Swanson, who served there last told me that there is no furniture there yet. I have my furniture here at our house but packing good furniture is not very good for same. If a small house could be gotten or rented we would sure appreciate same very much, as the church at Petersburg is used for a lot of things it is also used for a morgue and a corpse is usually kept there for three days or over. Mrs. Betts. does not enjoy same very much.

Most of our people are moving out to the canneries, I am still holding services here I will do so as long as there are some people here. I can assure you that I will continue to hold services at the cannery that I work at. I feel that we workers are needed on the fields much more in the summer than in the winter, as there are a lot of trials and a lot of temptations in the summer. When our people go to the canneries, they meet a lot of people that are not Christians, it is these that try to lead our people away from the right way. When I am out on the fishing grounds Mrs. Betts holds services at the cannery she is working at she tries to hold one service every Sunday. So we are serving twelve months and not eight.

I am not trying to tell you how good we are but I think that you should know just what our Church is doing.

When one is out on a field one should give all his time to the work. An oil burner could be a great help to a worker as it takes most of ones time to saw wood, and I know from past exprence that it is hard to get wood at Petersburg. So if there is any chance at all to get an oil burning range it sure will be a great help in the field.

I think you saw the field, if not aske Rev. Vern J. Swanson about the living quarters at Petersburg. If it is impossible to get the things we will try and get along as best we can. I will have my daughter to help me with the Week Day Bible classes.

My address for the summer will be Chatham, Alaska. I will try and write once in awhile.

It has been a great pleasure to have met you, I can say that I have been greatly blessed through meeting you. I feel that we have a great task. I am so glad that you are taking so great an ~~interest~~ in our Native work.

May good bless you in your great work for Him.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

P.S. We had our Childrens Day program on the 26th of May we had a fine program. I think it was the frist Children's program that ever was held in Angoon.

We all enjoyed the visit of Miss McCu~~ler~~, she is about the only member of the B ard that has visited us here and there was a good turn out at the service.

G. R. B.

June 13, 1940

AIRMAIL

Mr. George Betts
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts: It was my decision that the place for you to work this coming fall would be in Petersburg. I recently had a communication from Mr. Pederson that he felt you should work in Kake. As I am still of the opinion that your best place is at Petersburg, I am writing to ask what is your choice in the matter.

I have felt that we need an ordained man at Kake and that the church there will never grow or serve its purpose until and unless an ordained man is placed on the field. I feel that it would be a mistake for you to enter the service at Kake.

Please let me have your honest and frank opinion.

Cordially yours,

EEK:DH

ALASKA

Angoon, Alaska
June, 20, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:

I got your letter of the 13 of June, I am out fishing king salmon. I am trolling. I was to go out and work at a cannery but one of our men got drown, so I had to stay and conduct the funeral. so being late for the job I did not get same, it so happens ever year. as I told you in my last letter that a layworker is on the field all the year around. Since all the canneris are now full handed. I rigged up my boat and am now trolling, not doing ~~good~~ bad for a start.

As I told you ~~my~~ last letter that I have no choice, I will go to wherever you think best. I have been getting letters fr from the Kake Church asking us to come over but, I haven't answered them as yet. Yes, Kake is the best field in our Presbytery, there is a fine choir, and a good staff of Sunday School teachers and a fine Missionary society and what not. If I was to choose I would say Kake, But Petersburg needs a worker. It sure is a hard field I think it is the hardest field in our Presbtery, there are so many liquor stores and beer parlors. I have served that field before. so, I am willing to serve a hard field.

If we could have ordained men at the fields it would be much better. The Salvation Army is trying to get nearly all the Natives to join the Army. Now Kake is a strong Corp, they have there the best leader leading the Salvation Army and all they are doing ther is to get every one to join the Army. I think that is the only reason our Presbtery, put some Native layworkers on the field, as before they were Native workers the Salvation Army mad a clean sweep. The Native workers in the Army got just about all the Natives in the Army. We should not do such things, but this is the truth,

Let us pray over the Matter as ~~then~~ to where I would go. We have a lot of friends at Petersburg, both Natives and Whites, I do very little, Mrs Betts sure works on the field, I think she does just as much as any Missionary worker, she is always out working. I am very fortunate to have her as an helper.

Hope that this letter will find you and your family in good health. We pray that the Lord will bless you in your great work for Him.

Sincerely yours,

George R. Betts

Angoon, Alaska
June 21, 1940

Dear Mr. King:

We will take the
Petersburg field. I mailed a
letter yesterday, overlook same.

Most of The people are gone
Now, to the canneries.

Sincerely yours

George R. Betts

July 5, 1940

AIRMAIL

Mr. George Betts
Chatham, Alaska

Dear George:

I am glad you will go to Petersburg and know you will give a good account of your stewardship there.

It seems best to me for you to move your own furniture. I doubt if there is any in the manse over the church, therefore, move your own and we will pay the bill.

In case you rented a house, would you be willing to pay the rent? If not, how much would it cost the Board? I don't blame you for not wanting to live in the present church manse.

Thanks for your kind words. Please remember me in your prayers as I remember you.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

ALASKA

Dear George;

I am glad you will go to Petersburg and know you will give a good account of your stewardship there -

It would seem best to me for you to move your own furniture. I doubt if there is any in the manse over the Church - so you move your furniture and we will pay the bill.

In case you rented a house would you be willing to pay the rent? If not how much would it cost the Board? I don't blame you for not wanting to live in the present

church manse -

Thanks for your kind
words - Please remember me
in your prayers as I remember
you -

Cordially

Angoon, Alaska
Sept. 6, 1940

Dr. Everett B. King
Board of National Missions,
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. King:

attached
I am so sorry that I did not answer your last letter but, I know that you knew that, I was out on the fishing grounds, Yes, another fishing season is just over and we are all getting back to our homes.

We are now packing up our things and getting ready to sail for Petersburg. We are planning to leave here in our own boat on the 16th day of this month, if the weather is good it will take us about 17 hours, but if the weather is not good it may take us four or five days.

The fishing season has been the best in years, most all the Natives done well this year.

I was just able to hold two services the past summer at the canneries, as I was out on the fishing grounds most of the time.

I think that you told me in one of your letters that the Board will stand our expences, well, our expences will be \$15 from here to Petersburg, if we take our own boat but if we take the steamer it will be \$46 for the Mrs and myself, so we will be taking our own boat.

I will be writing you from Petersburg, we hope to be there about the 18th as we will stop and visit a day or two at Kake.

May the Lord bless you in your great work.

Sincerely,

George R. Betts

September 12, 1940

Mr. George Betts
Angoon, Alaska

Dear Mr. Betts:

In your letter of September 6 I note you plan to sail for Petersburg around the 16th of this month, traveling in your boat. You estimate the expenses will be something like \$15. Please send me a statement and I shall be glad to reimburse you.

Although Petersburg is a difficult field, I predict for you eight months of happy and wholesome work.

Cordially yours,

EBK:DH

